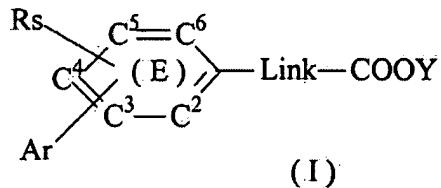


AMENDED SET OF CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-30. (Cancelled).

31. (Previously Presented) A compound represented by the formula (I):



wherein in the formula, Link represents a saturated or unsaturated straight hydrocarbon chain having 1 to 3 carbon atoms,

C^2 , C^3 , C^4 , C^5 , and C^6 in the aromatic ring (E) independently represent a ring-constituting carbon atom, one of the ring-constituting carbon atoms to which Rs and Ar do not bind may be replaced with V ,

V represents nitrogen atom, or carbon atom substituted with Zx , Zx represents a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, nitro group, $-OR^9$, or $-N(Rn^1)(Rn^2)$, R^9 represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or $-A^6-Qp$, wherein A^6 represents a single bond or methylene, Qp represents phenyl group, and the phenyl group may be substituted with one of T^1 or two or more of the same or different T^1 , T^1 represents a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, hydroxyl group, fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, trifluoromethyl group, nitro group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a mono- or

trifluoromethyl group, nitro group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a mono- or

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dialkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, Rn^1 represents hydrogen atom or a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, Rn^2 has the same meaning as Rn^1 , or represents $-COR^{23}$ or $-SO_2R^{24}$, or binds to Rn^1 to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to form a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, R^{23} represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a lower alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, $-O-A^6-Qp$, or $-N(R^{25})(R^{26})$, R^{25} represents hydrogen atom, or a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R^{26} has the same meaning as R^{25} , or binds to R^{25} to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to form a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, R^{24} represents a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, amino group, or a mono- or dialkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

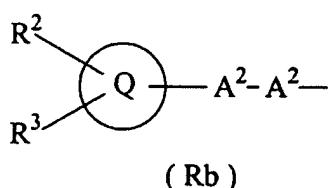
Rs represents $-D-Rx$ or $-N(Ry)(Rz)$,

D represents a single bond, oxygen atom, sulfur atom, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$, or $-C(O)-$,

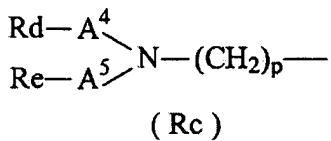
Rx represents a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 3 to 8 carbon atoms, Ra represented by the following formula:

$R^1(CH_2)_k-(Ra)$

Rb represented by the following formula:



or Rc represented by the following formula:



symbol k in Ra represents 0 or an integer of 1 to 3, R¹ represents a saturated cyclic alkyl group having 3 to 7 carbon atoms, or a condensed saturated cyclic alkyl group having 6 to 8 carbon atoms, and R¹ may be substituted with one of lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or two or more of the same or different lower alkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, Q in Rb represents a partially unsaturated or completely unsaturated monocyclic or condensed bicyclic carbon ring or a heterocyclic ring (q), and binds to A² at an arbitrary position on the ring, the heterocyclic ring (q) contains the same or different 1 to 4 ring constituting heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, oxygen atom, and sulfur atom, A¹ represents a single bond or an alkylene (a) having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and the alkylene (a) may be substituted with a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or phenyl group, A² represents a single bond, oxygen atom, sulfur atom, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, or -N(R⁴)- (provided that when A² represents oxygen atom, sulfur atom, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂- or -N(R⁴)-, A¹ represents ethylene or trimethylene), R² and R³ independently represent hydrogen atom, a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, oxo group, thioxo group, fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, trifluoromethyl group, -OR⁵, -N(R⁶)(R⁶), -NHCOR⁷, -NHSO₂R⁸, or -A⁶-Qa, or they bind to each other to represent methylenedioxy group, Qa represents a partially unsaturated or completely unsaturated monocyclic or condensed bicyclic carbon ring or a heterocyclic ring (qa), binds to A⁶ at an arbitrary position on the ring, and may be substituted with one of T¹ or two or more of the same or different T¹, the heterocyclic ring (qa) contains the same or different

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1 to 4 ring-constituting heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, oxygen atom, and sulfur atom, R⁴ and R⁶ independently represent hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R⁵ and R⁷ independently represent hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or -A⁶-Qa, R⁸ represents a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R⁶ has the same meaning as R⁶, or binds to R⁶ to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to represent a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, symbol p in R_c represents an integer of 2 to 4, A⁴ represents a single bond, methylene, or ethylene, A⁵ represents -C(O)-, -C(S)-, or -S(O)₂-, R_d represents hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or Qa, R_e represents an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, -A⁶-Qa, -(CH₂)_iR¹⁴, -OR²⁸, -SR²⁸, or -N(R²⁹)(R³⁰), symbol i represents an integer of 1 to 3, R¹⁴ represents hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, carboxyl group, or an N,N-dialkylcarbamoyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R²⁸ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or -A⁶-Qa, R²⁹ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, an alkoxy carbonyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or -A⁶-Qa, R³⁰ represents hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or binds to R²⁹ to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to represent a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group,

R_z has the same meaning as R_x, or R_z represents methyl group, ethyl group, or -A⁵-R_e, R_y represents hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or -A⁶-Q_p, or R_y may bind to R_z to form, together with a nitrogen atom to which they bind, a saturated or unsaturated 3 to 7-membered nitrogen-containing cyclic group, wherein said nitrogen-containing cyclic group

may optionally be substituted with one or two lower alkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms wherein said two alkyl groups may be the same or different,

AR represents a partially unsaturated or completely unsaturated condensed bicyclic carbon ring or a heterocyclic ring (ar), and may be substituted with one of Xa or two or more of the same or different Xa, the heterocyclic ring (ar) contains the same or different 1 to 4 ring-constituting heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, oxygen atom, and sulfur atom, Xa represents a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a saturated cyclic alkyl group having 3 to 7 carbon atoms, oxo group, thioxo group, fluorine atom, chlorine atom, trifluoromethyl group, $-(CH_2)_iR^{14}$, $-OR^{10}$, $-N(R^{11})(R^{12})$, $-SO_2R^{13}$, or $-COR^{27}$, R¹⁰ represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or $-(CH_2)_iR^{14}$, R¹¹ represents hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R¹² represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, $-COR^{15}$, or $-SO_2R^{16}$, or binds to R¹¹ to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to represent a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, R¹⁵ represents a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, amino group, a mono- or dialkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or $-A^6-Qa$, R¹³ and R¹⁶ independently represent a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, amino group, or a mono- or dialkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R²⁷ represents hydrogen atom, hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, amino group, or a mono- or dialkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

Y represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, $-(CH_2)_mN(R^{18})(R^{19})$, or $-C(R^{20})_2OC(O)A^3R^{21}$, symbol m represents an integer of 2 or 3, R^{18} is the same as R^{19} , or binds to R^{19} to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to represent a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, R^{19} represents methyl group, ethyl group, or propyl group, R^{20} represents hydrogen atom, methyl group, ethyl group, or propyl group, R^{21} represents a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a cyclic saturated alkyl group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or phenyl group, and A^3 represents a single bond, or oxygen atom, or a salt thereof.

32. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 31, which comprises the combination according to general formula (I), wherein in the formula,

Link represents a saturated or unsaturated straight hydrocarbon chain having 1 to 3 carbon atoms,

C^2 , C^3 , C^4 , C^5 , and C^6 in the aromatic ring (E) independently represent a ring-constituting carbon atom, one of the ring-constituting carbon atoms to which Rs and AR do not bind may be replaced with V,

V represents nitrogen atom, or carbon atom substituted with Zx , Zx represents a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, nitro group, $-OR^9$, or $-N(Rn^1)(Rn^2)$, R^9 represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or $-A^6-Qp$, wherein A^6 represents a single bond or methylene, Qp represents phenyl group, and the phenyl group may be substituted with one of T^1 or two or more of the same or different T^1 , T^1 represents a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having

1 to 4 carbon atoms, hydroxyl group, fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, trifluoromethyl group, nitro group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or a mono- or dialkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, Rn^1 represents hydrogen atom or a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, Rn^2 has the same meaning as Rn^1 , or represents $-COR^{23}$ or $-SO_2R^{24}$, or binds to Rn^1 to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to form a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, R^{23} represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a lower alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, $-O-A^6-Qp$, or $-N(R^{25})(R^{26})$, R^{25} represents hydrogen atom, or a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R^{26} has the same meaning as R^{25} , or binds to R^{25} to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to form a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, R^{24} represents a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, amino group, or a mono- or dialkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

Rs represents $-D-Rx$ or $-N(Ry)(Rz)$,

D represents a single bond, oxygen atom, sulfur atom, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$, or $-C(O)-$,

Rx represents a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 3 to 8 carbon atoms, or represents Ra , Rb , or Rc , wherein symbol k in Ra represents 0 or an integer of 1 to 3, R^1 represents a saturated cyclic alkyl group having 3 to 7 carbon atoms, or a condensed saturated cyclic alkyl group having 6 to 8 carbon atoms, and R^1 may be substituted with one of lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or two or more of the same or different lower alkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, Q in Rb represents a partially unsaturated or completely unsaturated monocyclic or condensed bicyclic carbon ring or a heterocyclic ring (q), and binds to A^2 at an

arbitrary position on the ring, the heterocyclic ring (q) contains the same or different 1 to 4 ring-constituting heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, oxygen atom, and sulfur atom, A¹ represents a single bond or an alkylene (a) having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and the alkylene (a) may be substituted with a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or phenyl group, A² represents a single bond, oxygen atom, sulfur atom, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, or -N(R⁴)- (provided that when A² represents oxygen atom, sulfur atom, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂- or -N(R⁴)-, A¹ represents ethylene or trimethylene), R² and R³ independently represent hydrogen atom, a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, oxo group, thioxo group, fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, trifluoromethyl group, -OR⁵, -N(R⁶)(R⁶'), -NHCOR⁷, -NHSO₂R⁸, or -A⁶-Qa, or they bind to each other to represent methylenedioxy group, Qa represents a partially unsaturated or completely unsaturated monocyclic or condensed bicyclic carbon ring or a heterocyclic ring (qa), binds to A⁶ at an arbitrary position on the ring, and may be substituted with one of T¹ or two or more of the same or different T¹, the heterocyclic ring (qa) contains the same or different 1 to 4 ring-constituting heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen atom, oxygen atom, and sulfur atom. R⁴ and R⁶ independently represent hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R⁵ and R⁷ independently represent hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or -A⁶-Qa, R⁸ represents a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R⁶' has the same meaning as R⁶, or binds to R⁶ to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to represent a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, symbol p in Rc represents an integer of 2 to 4, A⁴ represents a single bond, methylene, or ethylene, A⁵ represents -C(O)-, -C(S)-, or -S(O)₂-, Rd represents hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 8

carbon atoms, or Qa, Re represents an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, -A⁶-Qa, -(CH₂)_iR¹⁴, -OR²⁸, -SR²⁸, or -N(R²⁹)(R³⁰), symbol i represents an integer of 1 to 3, R¹⁴ represents hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, carboxyl group, or an N,N-dialkylcarbamoyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R²⁸ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or -A⁶-Qa, R²⁹ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, an alkoxycarbonyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or -A⁶-Qa, R³⁰ represents hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or binds to R²⁹ to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to represent a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group,

Rz has the same meaning as Rx, or Rz represents methyl group, ethyl group, or -A⁵-Re, Ry represents hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or -A⁶-Qp, or Ry may bind to Rz to form, together with a nitrogen atom to which they bind, a saturated or unsaturated 3 to 7-membered nitrogen-containing cyclic group, wherein said nitrogen-containing cyclic group may optionally be substituted with one or two lower alkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms wherein said two alkyl groups may be the same or different,

AR is naphthalen-2-yl group, naphthalen-1-yl group, benzofuran-5-yl group, benzofuran-4-yl group, benzofuran-2-yl group, benzo[b]thiophen-5-yl group, benzo[b]thiophen-4-yl group, benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl group, indol-5-yl group, indol-4-yl group, indol-6-yl group, benzothiazol-6-yl group, benzothiazol-7-yl group, benzothiazol-5-yl group, benzothiazol-4-yl group, dihydro-3H-benzothiazol-6-yl group, dihydro-3H-benzothiazol-7-yl group, dihydro-3H-benzothiazol-5-yl group, dihydro-3H-benzothiazol-4-yl group, quinolin-6-yl group, quinolin-3-yl group, quinolin-5-yl group, quinolin-7-yl group, dihydro-1H-quinolin-6-yl group, dihydro-1H-quinolin-5-yl

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group, benzo[d]isothiazol-5-yl group, benzo[d]isothiazol-4-yl group, benzo[d]isothiazol-6-yl group, benzo[d]isothiazol-7-yl group, 1H-indazol-5-yl group, 1H-indazol-4-yl group, 1H-indazol-6-yl group, benzo[c]isothiazol-5-yl group, benzo[c]isothiazol-4-yl group, benzo[c]isothiazol-6-yl group, benzo[c]isothiazol-7-yl group, 2H-indazol-5-yl group, 2H-indazol-4-yl group, 2H-indazol-6-yl group, imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-6-yl group, imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-7-yl group, 1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-5-yl group, 1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl group, isoquinolin-6-yl group, isoquinolin-3-yl group, isoquinolin-5-yl group, isoquinolin-7-yl group, dihydro-2H-isoquinolin-6-yl group, dihydro-2H-isoquinolin-5-yl group, cinnolin-6-yl group, cinnolin-5-yl group, quinazolin-6-yl group, quinazolin-7-yl group, quinazolin-5-yl group, quinoxalin-2-yl group, quinoxalin-6-yl group, quinoxalin-5-yl group, 1H-benzimidazol-5-yl group, 1H-benzimidazol-4-yl group, benzoxazol-5-yl group, benzoxazol-6-yl group, benzoxazol-4-yl group, benzoxazol-7-yl group, 1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridin-5-yl group, 1H-pyrrolo[3,2-b]pyridin-6-yl group, benzo[1,2,5]thiadiazol-5-yl group, benzo[1,2,5]thiadiazol-4-yl group, 1H-benzotriazol-5-yl group, 1H-benzotriazol-4-yl group, 1,3-dihydropyrrrole[2,3-b]pyridin-5-yl group, 1,3-dihydropyrrrole[2,3-b]pyridin-4-yl group, 1,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-5-yl group, 1,3-dihydrobenzimidazol-4-yl group, dihydro-3H-benzoxazol-6-yl group, dihydro-3H-benzoxazol-7-yl group, dihydro-3H-benzoxazol-5-yl group, dihydro-3H-benzoxazol-4-yl group, phthalazin-6-yl group, phthalazin-5-yl group, [1,8]naphthalidin-3-yl group, [1,8]naphthalidin-4-yl group, [1,5]naphthalidin-3-yl group, [1,5]naphthalidin-4-yl group, 1H-pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridin-6-yl group, 1H-pyrrolo[3,2-c]pyridin-4-yl group, 1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridin-5-yl group, 1H-pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridin-4-yl group, 1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridin-5-yl group, 1H-pyrazolo[4,3-b]pyridin-6-yl group, 1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-4-yl group, 1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-6-yl group, 1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c]pyridin-4-yl group

group, 1H-pyrazolo[3,4-c]pyridin-5-yl group, 1H-pyrazolo[3,4-c]pyridin-4-yl group, 1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]pyridin-5-yl group, 1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]pyridin-4-yl group, [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-6-yl group, [1,2,4]triazolo[4,3-a]pyridin-7-yl group, thieno[3,2-c]pyridin-2-yl group, thieno[3,2-c]pyridin-3-yl group, thieno[3,2-c]pyridin-6-yl group, thieno[3,2-b]pyridin-2-yl group, thieno[3,2-b]pyridin-3-yl group, thieno[3,2-b]pyridin-5-yl group, thieno[3,2-b]pyridin-6-yl group, 1H-thieno[3,2-c]pyrazol-5-yl group, 1H-thieno[3,2-c]pyrazol-4-yl group, benzo[d]isoxazol-5-yl group, benzo[d]isoxazol-4-yl group, benzo[d]isoxazol-6-yl group, benzo[d]isoxazol-7-yl group, benzo[c]isoxazol-5-yl group, benzo[c]isoxazol-4-yl group, benzo[c]isoxazol-6-yl group, benzo[c]isoxazol-7-yl group, indolizin-7-yl group, indolizin-6-yl group, indolizine-8-yl group, 1,3-dihydroindol-5-yl group, 1,3-dihydroindol-4-yl group, 1,3-dihydroindol-6-yl group, 1H-pyrazolo[3,4-d]thiazol-5-yl group, 2H-isoindol-5-yl group, 2H-isoindol-4-yl group, [1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-6-yl group, 1H-pyrazolo[3,4-b]pyrazin-5-yl group, 1H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyrazin-5-yl group, 7H-purin-2-yl group, 4H-chromen-6-yl group, or 4H-chromen-5-yl group, wherein the aforementioned groups may be substituted with one of X_a or two or more of the same or different X_a, X_a represents a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a saturated cyclic alkyl group having 3 to 7 carbon atoms, oxo group, thioxo group, fluorine atom, chlorine atom, trifluoromethyl group, -(CH₂)_iR¹⁴, -OR¹⁰, -N(R¹¹)(R¹²), -SO₂R¹³, or -COR²⁷, R¹⁰ represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or -(CH₂)_iR¹⁴, R¹¹ represents hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R¹² represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, -COR¹⁵, or -SO₂R¹⁶, or binds to R¹¹ to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the

nitrogen atom to which they bind to represent a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, R^{15} represents a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, amino group, a mono- or dialkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or $-A^6-Qa$, R^{13} and R^{16} independently represent a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, amino group, or a mono- or dialkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R^{27} represents hydrogen atom, hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, amino group, or a mono- or dialkylamino group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

Y represents hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, $-(CH_2)_mN(R^{18})(R^{19})$, or $-C(R^{20})_2OC(O)A^3R^{21}$, symbol m represents an integer of 2 or 3, R^{18} is the same as R^{19} , or binds to R^{19} to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to represent a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, R^{19} represents methyl group, ethyl group, or propyl group, R^{20} represents hydrogen atom, methyl group, ethyl group, or propyl group, R^{21} represents a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, a cyclic saturated alkyl group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or phenyl group, and A^3 represents a single bond, or oxygen atom,

provided that the following compounds are excluded:

the compound wherein AR is a residue of naphthalene, benzofuran, benzo[b]thiophene, indole, benzothiazole, dihydro-3H-benzothiazole, quinoline, dihydro-1H-quinoline, benzo[d]isothiazole, 1H-indazole, benzo[c]isothiazole, 2H-indazole, imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine, 1H-pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridine, isoquinoline, or dihydro-2H-isoquinoline, wherein the

aforementioned residue may be substituted with one of Xa or two or more of the same or different Za;

the compound wherein Link is $-(CH_2)_n-$, AR binds to C³ in the aromatic ring (E); Rs binds to C⁴ in the aromatic ring (E), C⁵ is a ring-constituting carbon atom substituted with Zx, or an unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atom, C² and C⁶ are unsubstituted ring-constituting atoms, Rx is -O-Rx, and Rx is a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 3 to 8 carbon atoms, or Rx is Ra or Rb.

33. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 32, wherein Link is $-(CH_2)_n-$, n is an integer of 1 to 3, Rz has the same meaning as that of Rx or represents -A⁵-Re when Rs is -N(Ry)(Rz), and Ry is hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or A⁶-Qp; or Ry binds to Rz to form, together with a nitrogen atom to which they bind, a saturated or unsaturated 3 to 7-membered nitrogen-containing cyclic group.

34. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 33, wherein Rs is -D-Rx or -N(Ry)(Rz), D is a single bond, oxygen atom, sulfur atom, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, or -C(O)-, Rx is a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 3 to 8 carbon atoms, or Ra, Rb, or Rc, k in Ra is 0 or an integer of 1 to 3, R¹ is a saturated cycloalkyl group having 3 to 7 carbon atoms or a condensed saturated cycloalkyl group having 6 to 8 carbon atoms, R¹ may be substituted with one of lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or two or more of the same or different lower alkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, Q in Rb is phenyl group, thienyl group, furyl group, pyrrolyl group, pyridyl group, oxazolyl group, isoxazolyl group, thiazolyl

group, isothiazolyl group, imidazolyl group, pyrazolyl group, oxadiazolyl group, thiadiazolyl group, triazolyl group, tetrazolyl group, naphthyl group, tetrahydronaphthyl group, indanyl group, indenyl group, quinolyl group, isoquinolyl group, indolyl group, benzofuryl group, benzothienyl group, benzimidazolyl group, benzoxazolyl group, benzothiazolyl group, indazolyl group, 4H-chromenyl group, dihydrobenzodioxyl group, benzoisoxazolyl group, pyrrolopyridinyl group, pyrazolopyridinyl group, triazolopyridinyl group, thienopyridinyl group, thienopyrazolyl group, 1,3-dihydrobenzimidazole group, dihydro-3H-benzoxazole group, or dihydro-3H-benzothiazole group (the aforementioned groups bond to A^2 at an arbitrary position on the rings), A^1 is a single bond or an alkylene (a) having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, the alkylene (a) may be substituted with a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or phenyl group, A^2 is a single bond, oxygen atom, sulfur atom, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$, or $-N(R^4)-$ (provided that when A^2 represents oxygen atom, sulfur atom, $-S(O)-$, $-S(O)_2-$, or $-N(R^4)-$, A^1 represents ethylene or trimethylene), R^2 and R^3 independently represent hydrogen atom, a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, oxo group, thioxo group, fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, trifluoromethyl group, $-OR^5$, $-N(R^6)(R^6)$, $-NHCOR^7$, $-NHSO_2R^8$, or $-A^6-Qa$, or they bind to each other to represent methylenedioxy group, Qa is phenyl group, pyridyl group, oxazolyl group, isoxazolyl group, thiazolyl group, isothiazolyl group, imidazolyl group, pyrazolyl group, oxadiazolyl group, thiadiazolyl group, triazolyl group, tetrazolyl group, naphthyl group, indanyl group, indenyl group, quinolyl group, isoquinolyl group, indolyl group, benzofuryl group, benzothienyl group, benzimidazolyl group, benzoxazolyl group, benzothiazolyl group, or indazolyl group wherein the aforementioned groups may be substituted with one of T^1 or two or more of the same or different T^1 , and bind to A^6 at an arbitrary position

on the rings, R⁴ and R⁶ independently represent hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R⁵ and R⁷ independently represent hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or -A⁶-Qa, R⁸ is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R⁶ has the same meaning as R⁶, or binds to R⁶ to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to form a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, p in Rc is an integer of 2 to 4, A⁴ is a single bond or methylene or ethylene, A⁵ is -C(O)-, -C(S)-, or -S(O)₂-, Rd is hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or Qa, Re is an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, -A⁶-Qa, -(CH₂)_iR¹⁴, -OR²⁸, -SR²⁸, or -N(R²⁹)(R³⁰), i is an integer of 1 to 3, R¹⁴ is hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, carboxyl group, or an N,N-dialkylcarbamoyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R²⁸ is an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms or -A⁶-Qa, R²⁹ is an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, an alkoxy carbonyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or -A⁶-Qa group, R³⁰ is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or binds to R²⁹ to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to form a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, Rz has the same meaning as Rx, or is -A⁵-Re, and Ry is hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or -A⁶-Qp, or binds to Rz to form a saturated or unsaturated nitrogen-containing cyclic substituent having 3 to 7 atoms together with nitrogen atom to which they bind.

35. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 33, wherein Rs is -O-Rx.

36. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 33, wherein AR binds to C³ in the aromatic ring (E), and Rs binds to one of the ring-constituting carbon atoms C⁴, C⁵, and C⁶.

37. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 33, wherein AR binds to C² in the aromatic ring (E), and Rs binds to one of the ring-constituting carbon atoms C³, C⁴, and C⁵.

38. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 36, wherein Rs is -O-Rx, and all of C², C³, C⁴, C⁵, and C⁶ in the aromatic ring (E) are not replaced with V.

39. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 37, wherein n is an integer of 2, and Y is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

40. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 36, wherein Rs binds to the ring-constituting carbon atom C⁵ or C⁶ in the aromatic ring (E).

41. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 40, wherein Rs is -O-Rx, and all of C², C³, C⁴, C⁵, and C⁶ in the aromatic ring (E) are not replaced with V.

42. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 41, wherein n is an integer of 2, and Y is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

43. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 36, wherein Rs binds to C⁴ in the aromatic ring (E), and C⁶ is replaced with V.

44. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 43, wherein n is an integer of 2, V is carbon atom substituted with Zx, D is oxygen atom, and Y is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

45. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 36, wherein Rs binds to C⁴ in the aromatic ring (E), C⁵ is nitrogen atom, and C² and C⁶ are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms, or wherein Rs binds to C⁴ in the aromatic ring (E), C⁵ is a ring-constituting carbon atom substituted with Zx, or an unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atom, C² and C⁶ are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms, and Rs is -N(Ry)(Rz), or wherein Rs binds to C⁴ in the aromatic ring (E), C⁵ is a ring-constituting carbon atom substituted with Zx, or an unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atom, C² and C⁶ are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms, Rs is -D-Rx, and D is a single bond, sulfur atom, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, or -C(O)-.

46. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 45, wherein Rs binds to C⁴ in the aromatic ring (E), C⁵ is nitrogen atom, and C² and C⁶ are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms.

47. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 46, wherein n is an integer of 2, Rs is $-O-R_x$, and Y is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

48. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 45, wherein Rs binds to C^4 in the aromatic ring (E), C^5 is a ring-constituting carbon atom substituted with Z_x , or an unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atom, C^2 and C^6 are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms, and Rs is $-N(R_y)(R_z)$.

49. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 32, wherein Link is $-(CH_2)_n-$, n is an integer of 1 to 3, C^2 and C^6 in the aromatic ring (E) are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms, AR binds to C^3 in the aromatic ring (E), and Rs is $-N(R_y)(R_z)$ and binds to C^4 in the aromatic ring (E).

50. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 49, wherein n is 2, and C^5 is carbon atom substituted with Z_x or unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atom.

51. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 49, wherein Rz is a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or Rz is Ra, Rb, or Rc, k in Ra is 0 or an integer of 1 to 3, R^1 is a saturated cyclic alkyl group having 3 to 7 carbon atoms or a condensed saturated cyclic alkyl group having 6 to 8 carbon atoms, R^1 may be substituted with one of lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or two or more of the same

or different lower alkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, Q in Rb is phenyl group, thienyl group, furyl group, pyrrolyl group, pyridyl group, oxazolyl group, isoxazolyl group, thiazolyl group, isothiazolyl group, imidazolyl group, pyrazolyl group, oxadiazolyl group, thiadiazolyl group, triazolyl group, tetrazolyl group, naphthyl group, tetrahydronaphthyl group, indanyl group, indenyl group, quinolyl group, isoquinolyl group, indolyl group, benzofuryl group, benzothienyl group, benzimidazolyl group, benzoxazolyl group, benzothiazolyl group, indazolyl group, 4H-chromenyl group, dihydrobenzodioxyl group, benzoisoxazolyl group, pyrrolopyridinyl group, pyrazolopyridinyl group, triazolopyridinyl group, thienopyridinyl group, thienopyrazolyl group, 1,3-dihydrobenzimidazole group, dihydro-3H-benzoxazole group, or dihydro-3H-benzothiazole group, wherein the aforementioned groups binds to A² at an arbitrary position, A¹ is a single bond or an alkylene (a) having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, the alkylene (a) may be substituted with a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or phenyl group, A² is a single bond, oxygen atom, sulfur atom, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, or -N(R⁴)-, provided that when A² represents oxygen atom, sulfur atom, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, or -N(R⁴)-, A¹ represents ethylene or trimethylene, R² and R³ independently represent hydrogen atom, a linear or branched saturated alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, oxo group, thioxo group, fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, trifluoromethyl group, -OR⁵, -N(R⁶)(R⁶'), -NHCOR⁷, -NHSO₂R⁸, or -A⁶-Qa, or they bind to each other to represent methylenedioxy group, Qa is phenyl group, pyridyl group, oxazolyl group, isoxazolyl group, thiazolyl group, isothiazolyl group, imidazolyl group, pyrazolyl group, oxadiazolyl group, thiadiazolyl group, triazolyl group, tetrazolyl group, naphthyl group, indanyl group, indenyl group, quinolyl group, isoquinolyl group, indolyl group, benzofuryl group, benzothienyl group, benzimidazolyl group, benzoxazolyl group,

Amendment dated May 5, 2008

Response to Office Action of February 5, 2008

benzothiazolyl group, or indazolyl group, wherein these groups may be substituted with one of T¹ or two or more of the same or different T¹, and bind to A⁶ at an arbitrary position on the ring, R⁴ and R⁶ independently represent hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R⁵ and R⁷ independently represent hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or -A⁶-Qa, R⁸ is a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R⁶ has the same meaning as R⁶, or binds to R⁶ to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to form a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, p in Rc is an integer of 2 to 4, A⁴ is a single bond or methylene or ethylene, A⁵ is -C(O)-, -C(S)-, or -S(O)₂-, Rd is hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or Qa, Re is an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, -A⁶-Qa, -(CH₂)_iR¹⁴, -OR²⁸, -SR²⁸, or -N(R²⁹)(R³⁰), i is an integer of 1 to 3, R¹⁴ is hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, carboxyl group, or an N,N-dialkylcarbamoyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R²⁸ is an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms or -A⁶-Qa, R²⁹ is an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, an alkoxy carbonyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or -A⁶-Qa group, R³⁰ is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or binds to R²⁹ to form a 3- to 6-membered ring together with the nitrogen atom to which they bind to form a saturated nitrogen-containing cycloalkyl group or morpholino group, and Ry is hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or binds to Rz to form a saturated or unsaturated nitrogen-containing cyclic substituent having 3 to 7 atoms together with nitrogen atom to which they binds and said nitrogen-containing cyclic substituent may be substituted with one or two lower alkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms wherein said two alkyl groups may be the same or different.

52. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 45, wherein Rs binds to C⁴ in the aromatic ring (E), C⁵ is a ring-constituting carbon atom substituted with Zx, or an unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atom, C² and C⁶ are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms, Rs is -D-Rx, and D is a single bond, sulfur atom, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, or -C(O)-.

53. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 36, wherein AR binds to C³ in the aromatic ring (E), C⁵ is a ring-constituting carbon atom substituted with Zx, or an unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atom, C² and C⁶ are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms, Rs is -D-Rx, and D is a single bond, sulfur atom, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, or C(O)-.

54. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 52, wherein Rs is -D-Rx, and D is a single bond.

55. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 52, wherein n is an integer of 2, and Y is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

56. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 36, wherein Link is -(CH₂)_n-, n is an integer of 2, AR binds C³ in the aromatic ring (E), Rs binds to C⁴ in the aromatic ring (E), C⁵ is a ring-constituting carbon atom substituted with the substituent Zx, or an unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atom, C² and C⁶ are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon

atoms, Rs is -D-Rx, D is a single bond, sulfur atom, S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, or C(O)-, and Y is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

57. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 36, wherein Link is -(CH₂)_n-, n is an integer of 2, AR binds C³ in the aromatic ring (E), Rs binds to C⁴ in the aromatic ring (E), C⁵ may be replaced with V, C² and C⁶ are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms, Rs is -D-Rx, D is a single bond, sulfur atom, S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, or C(O)-, and Y is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

58. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 36, wherein n is an integer of 2, Rs binds to C⁴ in the aromatic ring (E), C⁵ is a carbon atom substituted with -N(Rn₁)(Rn₂), provided that one of Rn₁ and Rn₂ is a substituent other than hydrogen atom, C² and C⁶ are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms, Rs is -O-Rx, and Y is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

59. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 36, wherein n is an integer of 2, Rs binds to C⁴ in the aromatic ring (E), C⁵ is a ring-constituting carbon atom substituted with the substituent Zx, or an unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atom, C² and C⁶ are unsubstituted ring-constituting carbon atoms, Rs is -O-Rc, and Y is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

60. (Previously Presented) A medicament containing the compound according to claim 33 or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

61. (Previously Presented) A medicament containing the compound according to claim 45 or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

62. (Currently Amended) An agent for inhibiting suppressing production of a prostaglandin and/or leukotriene, which comprises the compound according to claim 33 or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

63. (Currently Amended) An agent for inhibiting suppressing production of a prostaglandin and/or leukotriene, which comprises the compound according to claim 45 or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

64. (Currently Amended) An agent for ~~prophylactic and/or~~ therapeutic treatment of pulmonary fibrosis which comprises the compound according to claim 31 or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

65-66. (Cancelled).

67. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 53, wherein Rs is -D-Rx and D is a single bond.

68. (Previously Presented) The compound or salt thereof according to claim 53, wherein n is an integer of 2, and Y is hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.